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VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

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December 2008

Message from the President

By Jerry Olive, KD6WKY

May the Spirit of Christmas bring you good feeling, happiness, and a chance to pay it forward. Of all the newsletters I write, this is my favorite newsletter to put together. I try to have some fun with it and jazz it up a bit as you can see.

We had a nice turnout for Merriment on Main this year again. Thanks to everyone that helped out representing the club, and for helping the community. Consider yourselves community organizers...HI HI.

I have been fortunate this year. I received a few early Christmas presents that I can really appreciate. The biggest one is not amateur radio related directly but still very big. I received an opportunity to compete in the Gold's Gym Change Your Life Challenge last Spring and Summer. I had a blast! I did all kinds of stuff over there. I also had a Personal Trainer for twelve weeks...free!

I spend a lot of time at the gym these day. How is this sort of related to amateur radio? It's easier to do physical stuff like put up and take down antennas, stay up late during CQP and work from Poly Butte in Riverside County with club Past President Ralph Jones KA6FDI and work several hundred stations as the clouds passed right through our tent.

I also got plenty of help erecting that GAP Titan DX multi-band vertical antenna on the side of the house where my old Cushcraft R7 vertical antenna use to be. Thanks to Jerry KG6TT, Skip AF6HC and Tom N6AJR for all their help. I immediately got on the air and worked OM3SX in the Slovac Republic on 3Ø meters. He even confirmed the QSO on Logbook of the World the same day. Got a new antenna and a new country all in the same day.

Our annual club holiday party is coming up in a few days. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Hometown Buffet in Fairfield, same as last year.

Dues are due and payable on January 1, 2009. Annual membership dues are $15 per year. We also like to renew our ARRL memberships at the same time through the club which runs $37 annually. Now remember, just because your ARRL membership doesn't expire at this time doesn't mean you shouldn't renew it. By doing so, an additional 12 months is added to the current subscription. My membership is good through October 2009 yet I will renew it now and the membership will be extended to October 2010 by doing so.

New ARRL memberships are a real club bonus. We get to keep $15 of the ARRL membership for the club. If you are not an ARRL member, now is the time to get on board. Bring your checkbook!

I just finished working the 16Ø meter contest over at Tom N6AJR's QTH last night. I operated from the Yaesu FT-970 station and ran 100 watts to the GAP Voyager antenna in the back yard. Tom and I had fun, ate Togo's sandwiches while I made about 30 contacts. This is the second yard we did this. Tom worked over 100 stations before I arrived.

The 10 meter contest is next weekend and I intend to try my hand at that one again. I finished in First Place, Single Operator, Low Power, CW Only, East Bay Section in 2007. I got a nice piece of wall paper in the mail recently to oogle over for awhile.

We had another fun year as a club. I look forward to a great 2009 as your club secretary. Mike Vieira W6MAV will be assuming the duties of Club President for 2009. Thank you for allowing me to be your Club President for the past two years, it has been my pleasure to hold that position. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! 73!

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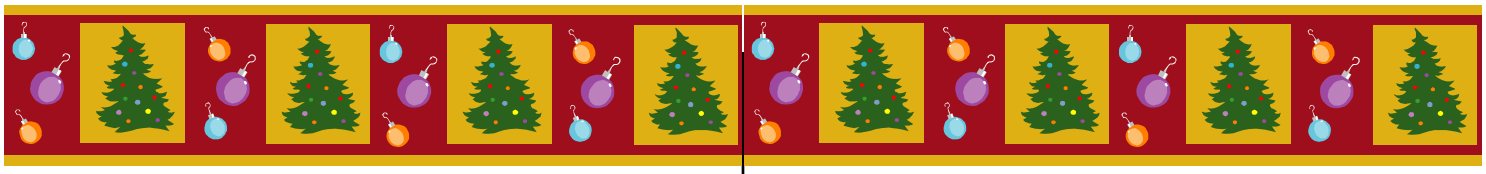

Vaca Valley Radio Club Meeting Notes of Wednesday. 12 Nov., 2ØØ8

Club President, Jerry Olive (KD6WKY) called the November, 2ØØ8, general membership meeting of the Vaca Valley Radio Club to order at 1945 hours, with the following members in attendance:

Jerry Olive	KD6WKY	Mike Vieira	W6MAV
Skip Lawson	KC6BXN	Bob Hewitt	K6HEW
Tom Lish	N6AJR	Douglas Ellis	KI6MWR
Glen Mitchell	KI6CJZ	Kim Ware	KI6JNX
Chris Jones	KD7TQO	Tony Del Rio	N6ZGB
George Vidal	KK4XU	Jim Latham	AF6AQ
Dean Lamp	WA6NBU		

We also had the pleasure of welcoming Scott Joseph (KI4QBP), as our guest for the evening. Scott has recently returned home to the States following a tour of duty with the USAF, serving in the U.K. where he also held the English call MØECD. Welcome home to "*the land of round door knobs*" Scott!

Since no changes were necessary to the Oct. meeting notes, it was motioned/seconded and voted to accept the Secretary's meeting notes as published in the newsletter.

Our Treasurer – Bob (K6HEW) reported that the club is still financially alive with the following totals: General Fund -

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VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB—2008 ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Vice President: Mike Vieira, W6MAV
Secretary: Skip Larson, KC6BXN
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, W6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Mike Foley, KC6RHP
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Antonio Del Rio, N6ZGB
Director: Tom Christman, KE6MDM
Director: Clyde Hood, WH6AB

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Mike Vieira, W6MAV
Activities Chairperson: Clyde Hood, WH6AB
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

Old Business:

Merriment on Main: Merriment on Main festivities for this Christmas season will be on Tuesday., 2 Dec. Security Headquarters and Net Control will again be at *Tax Advantage*, 356 Merchant St. The Vacaville PD will close the streets to vehicle traffic at 15ØØ and the event officially ends at 2Ø30 this year instead of 21ØØ like last year. Shauna will be needing radio operators from about 173Ø PM until about 2Ø3Ø – 21ØØ. We will be manning the "*Lost and Found*" booths at both the Chamber and Creekwalk, plus other assignments as needed. We will be using 147.51Ø SIMPLEX, and it's recommended that if you've got one of those "stick-in-your-ear" ear plug thingies for your radio to bring it because it can get pretty noisy during the festivities, making it darn difficult to hear the radio. The event organizers can really use all the help we can provide, so plan on being a part of the fun this year!

Christmas Dinner Party: The annual Christmas dinner party will again be held in the banquet room at the Fairfield, ***Home Town Buffet***, on Wed., 1Ø Dec., beginning at 18ØØhr. The cost this year is: Regular = $11.59 / person. Seniors = $1Ø.89 / person. Kids = 65¢ / year of age, and the menu is "all you can eat buffet."

Members are encouraged to bring a non-computer related item for the raffle drawing.

New Business:

Nominations for Club Officers for 2ØØ9: The nominations after the November meeting are as follows:
President: Mike (W6MAV); Vice President: ??? Treasurer: Bob (K6HEW); Secretary: our out-going President and outstanding newsletter editor - Jerry (KD6WKY); Member at large: Tom (N6AJR)

The slate of Board of Director nominations is comprised of: Chris (KD7TQO); Antonio (N6ZGB); Clyde (WH6AB); Kim (KI6JNX)

(Secretary's note: The nomination committee is still looking for that "*special someone*" who would like to work with a great bunch of guys - Mike, Jerry, Bob, and Tom, as the VVRC Vice President. There is no license class requirement, just a sincere desire to help steer the club through the next year. If you feel like this is something you would like to do, please get in touch with any one of the club officers before the December dinner.)

(Also, since Clyde (WH6AB) our Community Outreach Representative is stepping down, the entire board is trying to pick up the slack regarding upcoming events. This is strictly a volunteer position, NOT a voted club officer, so if you are the organized type and enjoy working with others to help set up and coordinate events – the VVRC would really welcome your stepping into Clyde's shoes! The ONLY requirement is a sincere

desire to "*get 'er done!*" Thank you.)

The winning ticket for the evening belonged to our Treasurer – Bob (K6HEW). Way to go Bob!

Finishing up the evening, Pres. Jerry shared some of his latest "*wall paper*" (ARRL contest awards), and some of the latest QSL cards he's received from contesting with DX stations around the world.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 2Ø45hr.

Respectfully submitted:

"Skip" Lawson AF6HC

Merriment on Main 2008

Six merry members of the Vaca Valley Radio Club along with two members of the Trilogy Radio Club had a fun time providing "eyes and ears" for Vacaville's Merriment on Main event. The evening was chilly and clear which made all of the free refreshments that much more enjoyable. Since this is a somewhat relaxed event, some of the members brought friends along to accompany them as the wondered through the merry throng. Both members and their friends are planning to do it again next year.

As usual, there were a few lost children. Fortunately, they were quickly reunited with their worried parents. An unusually high number of lost items such as cell phones, car keys, and wallets were turned in. Happily, many of these items were also retrieved before the night was done.

Those participating were Jerry, KD6WKY; Chris, KD7TQO; Ken, KG6RTY; Dean, WA6NBU; Mike, W6MAV; Kim, KI6JNX; Bob, K6HEW and Mike, KI6GPP.

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

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Wheelchair accessible

1LT Rusty Thompson in the Area during Holiday Season

No, that's not Moses parting the Red Sea. That's 1LT Rusty Thompson, USA back from Iraq on leave for a month.

Many of you remember Rusty visiting with us at a club meeting last March while he was on leave then. He told us a bit about how communications worked over in Iraq and in an unclassified way described generally how bad guys can be detected while on their cell phones.

Rusty is the Executive Officer of A Company, 519th Military Intelligence Battalion which works directly with the 82nd Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg, NC. The guy speaks Arabic and probably like the Baghdad locals by now.

When Rusty is in the area sometime before Christmas if I can arrange it I will set up a lunch meeting with him and anyone else interested and slapping hands and sharing a meal with him. I'm sure he will have some interesting things to tell us.

New Worked All States Award

As of January 1, 2009, the ARRL will offer another award: The Triple Play Worked All States Award. This new, exciting award is available to all amateurs who confirm contacts with each of the 50 states using three modes for each state: CW, phone and RTTY/digital. All 150 contacts must be made on or after the starting date and must be confirmed via Logbook of the World (LoTW). All bands -- with the exception of 60 meters -- may be used in pursuit of the Triple Play Award.

In their July 2008 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors, de-

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at:
http://users.cwnet.com/hewbob/vvrc
Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-) WV6F 440.025(+) WV6F 1291.900(-)

cided to implement this new award. Based on a suggestion by former ARRL Dakota Division Vice Director Hans Brakob, K0HB, the League's Programs and Services Committee referred the award's parameters to the Board where it received enthusiastic approval.

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, the Triple Play Award is a one-time award -- once you have made the required 150 confirmed contacts via LoTW, you're done. "Even so," Sumner writes in "It Seems to Us" in the January issue of *QST*, "there are many possible variations on the theme. You can try to be the first (or at least the first on your block) or you can set your own pace. Think it's too easy? Limit yourself to QRP while operating your favorite mode (or all three). Maybe you prefer to be the quarry; it will quickly emerge which states are the most difficult to find, offering opportunities to earn the gratitude of your mates by activating the ones you can get to with your portable or mobile rig."

The Triple Play Award is not a contest, but Sumner points out that the ARRL RTTY Roundup takes place the first weekend in 2009, with the North American QSO Party (CW and Phone) following soon after. "Contesters are among the most loyal devotees of LoTW," Sumner writes, "so participating in these three events should take care of all of the easy states, as well as some of the more difficult ones." He warns that it can be addictive once you begin making your contacts for the Triple Play Award!

The rules for the Triple Play Award state that two-way communication must be established on the amateur bands with each state on each mode (the District of Columbia may be counted for Maryland). There is no minimum signal report required. Contacts must be made from the same location, or from locations no two of which are more than 50 miles apart. Club station applicants must include their club name and call sign of the club station or trustee on their application. The Triple Play Award will be issued on sequentially numbered certificates, starting with #1, as determined by the time stamp of the electronic application as submitted via LoTW. There are no endorsements for this award.

Contacts made through repeater devices or any other power relay method may not be used for WAS confirmation (a separate WAS award is available for satellite contacts). All stations contacted must be land stations; contacts with ships, anchored or otherwise, and aircraft, cannot be counted. The only exception to this rule is permanently docked exhibition ships (such as the *Queen Mary*) and other historic ships will be considered land based.

Triple Play Award applicants who reside in the US must be ARRL members to be eligible to receive the award. DX stations do not need to be ARRL members. Any attempt to falsify data, logs or other application operations may be grounds for disqualification. The decision of the ARRL Awards Committee is final.

Amateur Radio Quiz: Watts In a Name?

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX
Contributing Editor

1) When Ray Charles sang a song featuring this place's name, I don't think his mind was on this country.

2) This African country has the same name as one of England's currencies.

3) Which North African country was incorporated into the name of a famous jazz standard?

4) These two DXCC entities lie in different oceans, but have the exact same holiday name!

5) This flightless bird shares its name with a deleted DXCC entity.

6) These Pacific Islands bear the name of a wise king.

7) The name of this country also refers to a straw hat popular at the beginning of the twentieth century.

8) Surprisingly, this African country figured prominently in the 2000 US election.

9) This island is the favorite of Short Wave Listeners (SWLs).

10) What Pacific island gets you up in the morning and what deleted DXCC entity keeps you awake?

11) Name the ugly duckling that grew up to become a deleted DXCC entity.

12) You can dress yourself in clothing bearing the names of these two entities.

13) This is another pair of island DXCC entities sharing a holiday's name, but in different languages.

14) What African DXCC entity has the sweetest song?

15) In colonial times, these Pacific Islands were named for the English earl who invented a famous lunchtime meal.

Bonus: What noteworthy world events occurred when the cook dropped the platter holding Thanksgiving dinner?

Answers

1) Georgia, 4L
2) Guinea, 3X
3) Tunisia, 3V (*A Night in Tunisia*)
4) Christmas Islands (T32 in the Pacific and VK9 in the Indian)
5) Penguin Island, ZS0
6) Solomon Islands, H4
7) Panama, HP
8) Chad, TT
9) Heard Island, VK0
10) Wake Island, KH9, and Java PK1
11) Swan Island, KS4
12) Jersey, GJ, and Bermuda (shorts), VP9
13) Ascension (ZD8) and Easter (CE0) Islands
14) Canary Islands (EA8)
15) The Sandwich Islands, now the Hawaiian Islands (KH6)

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely — Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
Street: _____
City: _____Zip: _____
Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)
License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)
E-Mail Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues----------$15.00_____
Each Family Member ------$ 2.00 _____
Student ----------$ 5.00 _____
Repeater/Autopatch donation ------ _____
Call/Name badge----------$10.00 _____
Optional ARRL membership
ARRL dues ----------$37.00 _____
ARRL dues (Senior)--------$34.00 _____
Senior is 65 yr or older with one time proof on age.

Total ---------- _____
Paid by CASH: ____ Check #_____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143